

ROGER OF SICILY

INTRODUCTION

SOUTHERN ITALY *CIRCA* 1000 A.D.

" A LAND destined to receive from the South
its civilisation, from the North its masters."

So has the history of Italy from Honorius been
summed up in a single phrase.¹ From 400 A.D.

to 1050 A.D., three Northern races descended

without thought of return into the sunny land of

corn, olive, and vine. After the East Goths, the

Lombards, and after these the Normans, who,

coming in isolated bands and not as a nation, yet

represent the last considerable immigration of

Teutonic invaders. •

Italy, south of a line drawn from the Tronto to

Rieti, and from that again to Terracina, was the

arena of Norman conquest; the genius of Robert

Guiscard, of Richard of Aversa, and after them of

¹ Bertaux, *L'Art dans l'Italie meridionale*, i., p. 15. See *Ibid.*, p. 11 *seq.* for a detailed sketch of the topography of Lower Italy.